Iranian envoy hails Pakistan's efforts to counter terrorism

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Iran, Reza Amiri, has wished new year greetings to the leadership and people of Pakistan.

In a message, the ambassador said, "On the occasion of the New Year 2026, I extend my sincere greetings and best wishes for health, prosperity, and success to the Government and the brotherly, friendly, and neighbouring people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan."

The message added, "I wish to express my special appreciation to President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the esteemed members of his cabinet, Speaker and members of the National Assembly, Chairman and members of Senate for their strong political will and valuable efforts in advancing bilateral relations, promoting the exchange of high-level delegations, and extending brotherly support that has significantly contributed to the deepening of ties between our two nations."

Ambassador Amiri also conveyed gratitude to the army and the security forces for their vital role in enhancing cooperation and for their commendable contributions to the security and stability of the common borders, particularly in the fight against terrorism.

He wished that the year ahead may bring peace, stability, and shared progress, while opening new avenues for strengthening cooperation and further consolidating our enduring relations, founded upon common interests, shared values, and mutual respect.

The message said that the year 2025 stands as a highly successful and remarkable year in the history of Iran–Pakistan bilateral relations, owing to the firm determination of the leadership of both countries, the tireless efforts of various governmental sectors, and the steadfast support and patience of the people of both countries. — Kalbe Ali

Govt payments in AJK to remain suspended for two weeks

MUZAFFARABAD: All government payments in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) will remain suspended for two weeks from next Tuesday owing to an upgrade of the SAP (Simple Application Product) financial management system, according to a circular from the accountant general's office.

"As informed by the AJK Controller General of Accounts, the Directorate of Federal Accounts (FABs), Islamabad, will carry out the system upgrade, during which the SAP system will remain non-functional, and, consequently, no payments will be processed through the system from January 6 to January 20," read the circular issued by Additional Accountant General Mir Muhammad Asghar.

In order to avoid disruption, the circular urged all divisional and district accounts officers to clear all receipted bills before the shutdown.

They were also instructed to ensure daily clearance of claims and bills and to maintain a zero balance in the Bill Tracking Report (BTR) up to Jan 5.

In an unusual move, the weekly holidays on Jan 3 and 4 were cancelled, and all accounts offices across AJK would remain operational on these dates to facilitate timely processing and clearance of government payments.

The circular described the matter as "most important" and stressed strict compliance with the instructions to minimise inconvenience during the system upgrade period. — Correspondent

YOUNGSTER huddle around fire in F-6 in Islamabad on Thursday. — White Star

Labour unions, civil society reject amendments to ICT local government law

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Labour unions and civil society organisations have outrightly rejected what they described as a "blatant assault on constitutional rights" through recent amendments to the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) local government framework.

Local government elections are scheduled to be held in Islamabad on February 15 across all 125 union councils of the federal capital.

The organisations said that through the amendments, the government has allowed businessmen and technocrats to occupy seats reserved for peasants and workers, while drastically cutting women's representation from 33 per cent to just 7 per cent, which they termed nothing short of engineered elite capture.

"These changes openly violate Articles 3, 25, 32 and 38 of Pakistan's Constitution, destroy the principle of positive discrimination, and trample the Charter of Democracy. They also place Pakistan in breach of its international commitments, including GSP Plus obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals," said a press release issued by Coalition-38, a nationwide network of associations, community-based organisations, labour unions and human rights activists.

The press release said that the ICT Local Government Act defines peasants and workers as economically vulnerable citizens dependent on subsistence labour. Inserting undefined "businessmen" and privileged technocrats into these categories, it added, is a calculated move to push the poor out of the only political space reserved for them. A daily-wage worker cannot compete with wealth, influence and patronage networks, nor is that the intention, it said.

"Islamabad's local elections have already been repeatedly delayed, cancelled and manipulated. Between 2021 and 2025, election schedules were announced five times and withdrawn four times, sometimes days before polling, without explanation or accountability. Now, with elections again announced for February 2026, the law itself is being rewritten to ensure that even if voting occurs, the outcome is pre-decided," the statement said.

It said that reserved seats were the last foothold for peasants, workers and women in local councils, and stripping these protections confirmed a deep fear of genuine grassroots representation. "Elites cannot tolerate sitting as equals with workers, nor can they risk even a single councillor demanding enforcement of labour and land rights. This is not reform. It is exclusion by design," the statement said.

The organisations demanded the immediate removal of businessmen and technocrats from seats reserved for peasants and workers, restoration of the women's quota to 33 per cent, and direct elections for all local government positions, including mayor and deputy mayor. They also called for full devolution and empowerment of ICT local governments as mandated by Article 140-A of the Constitution and the Charter of Democracy.

"Local government is the foundation of democracy. Undermining it is an attack on the republic itself," the statement said.

Doctors issue death certificate for alive newborn, HFH launches probe

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Holy Family Hospital (HFH) administration on Thursday constituted a five-member committee to investigate an incident in which doctors issued a death certificate to the parents of a newborn who was later discovered to be alive.

The newborn had been declared dead by doctors at the hospital, following which a death certificate was issued to the parents.

After the parents confirmed that the baby was alive, the newborn was immediately transferred to a ventilator.

However, the hospital administration took notice of the incident and formed a five-member committee to investigate the incident and submit a report within 48 hours.

According to reports, a woman gave birth to twins two days ago. When the physical condition of one of the newborns deteriorated, doctors hastily issued a death certificate.

However, when the parents received the baby, he was found to be breathing.

After it emerged that the baby was alive, doctors claimed the newborn was suffering from Lazarus syndrome, a rare condition in which breathing becomes extremely shallow.

When contacted, Holy Family Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Akhtar Mehmood Malik said the newborn had been transferred from Wah Cantonment to Holy Family Hospital on Dec 30.

"Basically, the twins were born prematurely and one child died while other was alive and confusion occurred over this. He said that since this is a case of Lazarus syndrome, in which life remains in various organs of the body even after death.

However, he said that no complaint has been filed by the parents of the baby.

Despite this, a committee led by Peads head of department Prof. Dr. Hina Sattar has been formed to inquire into the matter.

Two killed in separate incidents

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Two persons were killed in two separate incidents in the jurisdictions of Attock and Taxila police stations on Thursday, police sources said.

In the first incident, a security guard was crushed to death by a speedy dumper at Ziarat Chowk in Sanjwal Cantonment area in the limits of Attock police station.

According to the police, 55-year-old Arab Khan was going on his duty to a local factory when a speedy dumper knocked him to death.

The driver fled with his vehicle from the crime scene successfully. In the second incident, a 25-years-old man was gunned down in a broad daylight assassination incident in a busy commercial market in the limits of the Taxila Police station.

Police sources said that the man identified as Muneeb Shahid was gunned down when he entered a saloon. The attacker managed to escape from the scene.

Temperatures dip amid snowfall in Murree, rain in twin cities

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: Snowfall in Murree and rain in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad made the weather chilly, while the Met Office predicted that temperatures in the twin cities would fall further during the current week.

A total of four inches of snowfall was recorded in Murree, while the weather is expected to clear on Friday.

In Islamabad, 27 millimetres of rain were recorded in Saidpur, 12mm at Golra, 16mm at Bokra and 23mm at Zero Point. In Rawalpindi, 24mm of rain was recorded at Shamsabad, 16mm at Katcheri, 12mm at Pirwadhai, 17mm at Gawalmandi and 20mm at New Katarian.

Over the past two days, the temperature rose to six degrees Celsius, and the Meteorological Department forecast that the cold wave gripping the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad would intensify further. "Usually, the temperature in Islamabad and adjoining Rawalpindi drops to the freezing point in December and January.

On Thursday, a temperature of six degrees Celsius was recorded in Rawalpindi and Islamabad due to cloud cover," a Met official told Dawn.

He said the temperature was expected to drop further on Friday (today) following chilly weather in the surrounding hilly areas of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

He said continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country, while a westerly trough was affecting Kashmir and adjoining areas and moving eastwards.

Cold and dry weather is expected over most parts of the country, while very cold conditions are likely in upper hilly areas during morning and night hours.

Moderate to dense fog is expected over plain areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and upper Sindh during morning and night hours, he added.

Meanwhile, the Murree district administration sprinkled salt on various highways. During the snowfall, Murree Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi visited different areas, including Lower Topa, Jhika Gali, Kaldna, Barian and Kali Mati.

He reviewed the arrangements made by the administration and directed officials to provide all possible facilities to tourists.

He advised tourists to be aware of the weather situation and ensure their vehicles are mechanically fit before coming to Murree.

He said the implementation of the traffic plan was being ensured and that all administrative departments were on alert, urging tourists to cooperate with the administration.

Ticket row turns violent at New Year concert in Islamabad housing society

ISLAMABAD: Mismanagement at a musical concert organised as part of New Year celebrations at a private housing society turned violent when people were allegedly denied entry despite holding valid tickets.

Police sources said tickets for the musical night were sold at Rs5,000 for families and Rs2,000 for individuals. However, tickets were allegedly sold beyond the venue's capacity and adequate arrangements for spectators were not made.

As a result, the area reserved for spectators became overcrowded. A large number of ticket-holders also gathered outside the venue in an attempt to gain entry.

Security guards of the housing society stopped the gathering and did not allow them to enter the concert venue, prompting protests by the ticket-holders.

It has yet to be established how the protest turned violent and which side took the first step in disrupting law and order. A police contingent was deployed at the venue for security and crowd control, but it reportedly remained a silent spectator until the situation worsened.

During the protest, a physical confrontation broke out between the ticket-holders who were denied entry and the security guards. Both sides pelted stones at each other, while the guards also used batons to disperse the crowd.

The use of force further angered the gathering, which then began damaging property.

Police intervened when the situation went out of control and used force along with anti-riot gear to disperse the protesters. During the police action, a couple of protesters were picked up and taken to police installations.

Videos that went viral on social media showed some youngsters throwing stones at the guards and damaging property. In the clips, guards can also be seen chasing and manhandling some of the youths.

The housing society management had arranged the musical concert and sold tickets in different categories. Some participants alleged that despite purchasing tickets, they were not allowed entry, which became the initial cause of the disturbance.

Sources said the society management was planning to register an FIR, but no official complaint had been lodged so far. According to sources, the management told the police that they would come to lodge a complaint, but it remains unclear when this will happen. — Staff Reporter

BEFORE:- MR. ABDUL RAZZAQ (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT NO.II, AT KARACHI
Block No.50,Pakistan Secretariat, Near Passport Office, Saddar ,Karachi
SUIT NO. 241 OF 2025.

M/S HABIB RANK LIMITED Having Its Registered Head Office At Hbl. Plaza, I I Chundrigar Road. Karachi Pakistan.....**Plaintiff**
VERSUS
NASEERUDDIN ALI S/O SADRUDDIN Resident Of Flat No C-508, Al-Azhar Garden, Sector 35- B, Scheme-33, Karachi. **2nd Address:** Flat No F-25, Niyamat Arcade. F B Area, Karachi **Business Address: Al-Meezan** Cattle. Farm Shade No 15, Al-Momin Cooperative. Diary Farm, DEH SHAH Murid Mokhi Goth, Gadap. Karachi.....**DEFENDANT**

To,
The Above named Defendant.

Whereas the Plaintiff abovenamed has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of finances) Ordinance XLVI of 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within Thirty Days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you. In default whereof the Plaintiff will be entitled at any time after the expiration of such thirty days to **RS 2,024,178.22 ALONG WITH COSTS OF SUIT AND COST OF FUNDS.** Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court in the form of written statement showing that there is a defense to the suit on merits or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.

The matter is fixed on **03rd day of February 2026 at 09:00 AM** before the Banking Court-II, Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 26 Day of DECEMBER 2025.

BY ORDER
READER
BANKING COURT NO. II KARACHI

BEFORE:- MRS. NAUSHABA KAZI JUDGE
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. III, AT KARACHI
BLOCK NO.50, PAKISTAN SECRETARIAT NEAR PASSPORT OFFICE, SADDAR KARACHI
SUIT NO. 243 OF 2025

MESSR. UNITED BANK LIMITED, (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SILK BANK LIMITED), HAVING ITS REGISTERED HEAD OFFICE AT UBL TOWER I.I, CHUNDRIGAR ROAD, KARACHI,.....PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
ASIF AZIZ WARSI S/O ABDUL AZIZ WARSI, MUSLIM ADULT, RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO.1278 SECTOR 33/C KORANGI 02 NEAR JAMIA MASJID NOOR KARACHI.....DEFENDANT

To,
The above named Defendant

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 **RS 325,542/-**, UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE, 2001. balance of principle and markup due to you; you are therefore hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within 30 days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after the expiration of such 30 days to obtain a decree for any sum not exceeding the sum of **RS 325,542/-** and sum of Rs (Not Yet determined) for costs together with such markup and cost of fund, if any, from the date of institution of the suit as the Court may order.
Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court supported by affidavit or declaration showing that there is a defence to the suit on the merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Matter is fixed on 03 day of FEBRUARY 2025 at 9:00 AM before the Banking Court-III Karachi Given under my hand and seal of the court this 22nd Day of December 2025.

BY ORDER
READER
BANKING COURT NO. III, KARACHI

BEFORE MR. MUHAMMAD SAAD QURESHI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. I, AT KARACHI
Block-No. 55- Pakistan Secretariat, near Passport Office Saddar, Karachi
SUIT NO. 285 OF 2025

M/s United Bank Limed,
Having its registered office at 13th floor UBL Building Jinnah Avenue blue area, Islamabad. and Head Office at 8th floor State Life Building No.1, I.I, Chundrigar Road Karachi.....**PLAINTIFF**
VERSUS
MUHAMMAD ALI S/O MUHAMMAD IQBAL,
Adult. R/o House No A-07. 3rd floor. Plot # St-5/2. Ashraf Homes, block-05. North Nazimabad, Karachi. near Shahra-e-Noor Jahan P.S. Karachi.
Address as per CNIC House No.R.-34, street No.5/2. Block -E. North Nazimabad, Karachi.
Employment address:
Karachi Dock Labour Board. Karachi
Dock Labour Board (Medical Pharmacy Dr Zia Uddin Hospital. Keamari Campus Karachi.....**DEFENDANTS**
To. The abovenamed Defendants
Whereas the Plaintiff abovenamed has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 for **Rs. 364,999.85** balance of principle and markup due to you ; you are therefore hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within 30 days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit. and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after the expiration of such 30 days to obtain a decree for any sum not exceeding the sum of **Rs. 364 999.85** and sum of Rs (Not Yet determined) for costs together with such markup and cost of fund if any, from the date of institution of the Suit as the Court may order leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court supported by affidavit or declaration showing that there is a defence to the suit on the merits or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit.
Matter is fixed on 10th day of February 2026 at 9:00 AM before the Banking Court-I Karachi. Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 24th day of December 2025.

BY ORDER
READER
BANKING COURT No. I,
KARACHI

BEFORE MRS. NAUSHABA KAZI (JUDGE)
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. III, AT KARACHI
Block-No. 50- Pakistan Secretariat, near Passport Office Saddar, Karachi
SUIT NO. 251 OF 2025

M/s UNITED BANK LIMITED,
Having its registered office. at 13th floor UBL Building Jinnah Avenue Blue Area. Islamabad And head office at 8th floor State Life Building No.1, I.I.Chandrigar Road Karachi.....**PLAINTIFF**
Versus
Asad Mahmood Malik S/o Mahmood Ahmed
Adult. R/o bangalow No.F-177. Block-05. Clifton Karachi. Near Emerald Mall, Karachi
Address as per CNIC
House. No. C-18 Street 26 Touheed Commercial. DHA Karachi
Employment Address:
Future Hospitality Services Pvt Ltd.
Future Hospitality Services plot No. F-177. Block-05. Clifton near Do Talwar, Karachi. **DEFENDANT**
To the abovenamed Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff abovenamed has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001, **Rs. 1,336,273.45 Under secion 9 of the financial institution** (Recovery of finsnpes) Ordinace 2001, balance of principle and markup due to you ; you are therefore hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within 30 days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit. and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after the expiration of such 30 days to obtain a decree for any sum not exceeding the sum of **Rs. 1,336,273.45** and sum of Rs (Not Yet determined) for costs together with such markup and cost of fund if any, from the date of institution of the Suit as the Court may order leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court supported by affidavit or declaration showing that there is a defence to the suit on the merits or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit.
Mater is fixed on 03 day of February 2026 at 9:00 AM before the Banking Court-III, Karachi.
Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 24th day of December 2025.

BY ORDER
READER
BANKING COURT No. I, KARACHI